

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

- MISS FOLGER (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

O/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

F/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 064634

R 092218Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA

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USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 9, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. THE PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER IS QUOTED TODAY AS
SAYING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY THAT THERE WOULD BE
NO QUESTION OF THE USE OF THE BASES IN THE AZORES AGAINST
THE ARABS. HAS THIS COUNTRY BEEN INFORMED OF ANY PORTUGUESE
INTENTION TO DENY PERMISSION FOR THE U.S. PLANES TO REFUEL
THERE?

A. NO. WE HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED BEFORE OR AFTER THE PRIME
MINISTER'S STATEMENT; AND I MIGHT MAKE JUST ONE ADDITIONAL
COMMENT THERE WITH REGARD TO OUR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AZORES
BASE: THAT THIS SUBJECT HAS NEVER ARISEN IN THE DISCUSSIONS
THAT WE'VE HAD THUS FAR. IN THAT CONNECTION, THE LAST TIME
THAT AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY MET WITH AMBASSADOR THEMIDO WAS IN
JANUARY; AND AT THAT TIME THE PORTUGUESE INFORMED US THAT

THEY WOULD PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THEIR ELECTIONS
BEFORE RESUMING THE DISCUSSIONS.

AND THAT'S ABOUT ALL I CAN GIVE YOU AT THIS TIME.
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Q. WE NOW UNDERSTAND THE BASE AT LAJES IS NOT TO BE AVAIL-
ABLE TO US IN CASE OF AN AIRLIFT TO ISRAEL?

A. WELL, WE HAVE NOTED THE PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT,
YES --

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO IT?

A. NO. I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR REACTION TO IT AT THIS TIME. WE WILL PRESUMABLY BE DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT WHEN THE NEGOTIATIONS RESUME.

Q. HAS THE SECRETARY INVITED FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON TO WASHINGTON?

A. ON THAT, FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON WILL BE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES NEXT WEEK, I BELIEVE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL. HE WILL MEET WITH THE SECRETARY WHILE HE IS IN THE UNITED STATES. I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE TIME AND EXACT DATE YET, BUT I'LL GET THAT AS SOON AS I CAN.

Q. IS SOMEONE COMING FROM EGYPT?

A. I KNOW OF NO PERSON COMING FROM EGYPT, NO.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU -- YOU MAY NOT HAVE THE ANSWER, AND MAYBE YOU CAN GET US THE ANSWER -- THE LEBANESE MAGAZINE, ASSAYAD, REPORTED TODAY THE SOVIET UNION GAVE EGYPT AN ADVANCED MIG-25 JET FIGHTER BUT TOOK IT BACK AFTER IT MADE A SINGLE RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT. THE MAGAZINE SAID SADAT HAS BEEN TELLING VISITORS, "YOU SEE, THIS SHOWS HOW THE SOVIET UNION IS RELUCTANT TO SUPPLY EGYPT WITH ADVANCED WEAPONS."

THE SECRETARY WAS A RECENT VISITOR THERE. CAN YOU FIND OUT FOR US IF HE HAS BEEN TOLD, OR WAS TOLD, LET'S SAY, WHEN HE WAS THERE OF SUCH A -- WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT -- TURNABOUT?

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A. LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO. I HAVEN'T SEEN THE REPORT.

Q. AMBASSADOR DINITZ WAS IN TO SEE THE SECRETARY YESTERDAY. IN THAT MEETING OR OTHERWISE, HAS THE SECRETARY

DETECTED ANY MOVEMENT TOWARD A MORE CONCILIATORY ISRAELI POSITION REGARDING AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT?

A. ON THE MEETING YESTERDAY BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR DINITZ, I THINK THE AMBASSADOR GAVE SOME KIND OF A READOUT -- WHICH IS AVAILABLE. AND I TALKED TO THE SECRETARY ABOUT IT. THE SECRETARY CONFIRMED TO ME THAT THIS WASN'T A MEETING WHERE THE AMBASSADOR BROUGHT ANY NEW PROPOSALS OR ANYTHING AT ALL LIKE THAT. THERE WAS A CONTINUING AND GENERAL REVIEW OF THE WHOLE SITUATION IN

THE AREA. AND THAT IS THE READOUT THAT HE GAVE ME.

Q. WILLING TO GIVE MORE PERHAPS, SETTLE FOR LESS PERHAPS?
MORE CONCILIATORY, THAT IS MY QUESTION. THE TONE.

A. I CAN'T ANSWER IT. I THINK THE TONE OF THE MEETING
WAS JUST FINE. AND THIS IS THE THIRD MEETING THEY'VE
HAD SINCE THE SECRETARY HAS COME BACK.

Q. ON ALLON'S VISIT, THE WAY YOU PUT IT IS: HE HAPPENED
TO BE COMING TO THE U.S. TO THE UJA AND WHILE HE IS HERE
THE SECRETARY WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE HIM. IS THAT THE WAY
IT IS, OR DID THE SECRETARY ASK ALLON TO COME TO GET SOME-
THING GOING?

A. I CAN'T BE THAT SPECIFIC ON IT AT THIS TIME. ALL I
CAN TELL YOU IS THAT THE SECRETARY KNEW THAT HE WAS COMING
OVER FOR THIS AND THAT THE TWO OF THEM WILL BE MEETING.
THAT IS DEFINITE.

Q. DOES THE SECRETARY EXPECT NEW PROPOSALS FROM MR. ALLON
WHILE HE IS HERE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. I DON'T WANT TO PREJUDGE WHAT THE
CONVERSATION BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON AND THE
SECRETARY IS GOING TO BE. I JUST CAN'T ANSWER THAT.
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Q. YOU'RE SATISFIED WITH THE DESCRIPTION THAT THIS IS A
GENERAL REVIEW?

A. THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. LOOK. APART FROM THE LARGE MIDDLE EAST REASSESSMENT,
AMBASSADOR DINITZ HAS SEEN THE SECRETARY, I BELIEVE,
THREE TIMES; AND BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL ARE
SAYING THAT THIS IS PART OF A GENERAL REVIEW. I ASSUME
A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE SITUATION, THE SINAI SITUATION.
IS THERE A COMPARABLE GENERAL REVIEW BEING UNDERTAKEN
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE CONVERSATIONS THAT
HERMAN EILTS MAY HAVE BEEN HAVING WHILE HE WAS IN CAIRO
BEFORE HE CAME BACK HERE.

Q. YOU SEE, WITH A SUCCESSION OF DINITZ MEETINGS AND NOW
ALLON, IT WOULD BE EASY TO GAIN THE IMPRESSION THAT ISRAEL
IS DOING A LOT OF REVIEWING THAT EGYPT ISN'T DOING. SO
I'M TRYING TO GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW A PARALLEL

IF YOU WANT.

A. I CAN'T DRAW A PARALLEL.

Q. EARLIER THIS WEEK WHEN YOU WERE ASKED ABOUT HOW LONG THIS COMMITTEE'S REASSESSMENT WAS GOING ON, YOU PEGGED IT IN PART TO THE SECRETARY'S INTENTION TO CONSULT WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, AND YOU WERE NOT SURE AS TO HOW SOON THAT COULD BE DONE, ETC. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC ON THAT?

A. ON THAT, HE HAD BREAKFAST THIS MORNING, AS WE KNOW, WITH SENATOR RIBICOFF; AND THE SECRETARY WILL BE SEEING SENATOR HUMPHREY TONIGHT. AND THEN ON THURSDAY AT 5:30, HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT, THE SECRETARY WILL BE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVE HAMILTON AND OTHER MEMBERS -- AND I CAN'T TELL YOU YET WHICH ONES -- OF THE NEAR EAST SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. THAT'S THE ONLY OTHER FIRM THING I HAVE AT THE MOMENT. BUT AS UNCLASSIFIED

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THESE THINGS BECOME FIRMED UP, I WILL REPORT THEM TO YOU.

Q. WAS IT AMBASSADOR DINITZ OR THE SECRETARY WHO PROPOSED THIS ALLON DETOUR?

A. WELL, BERNIE ASKED ME THIS QUESTION IN ESSENCE A MOMENT AGO, AND I CAN'T ANSWER IT AT THE MOMENT. I'LL HAVE TO CHECK WITH THE SECRETARY.

Q. JUST ONE POINT ON THE MEETING WITH SENATOR RIBICOFF. THIS IS TOTALLY ON THE MIDDLE EAST? THIS IS NOT A RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING U.S.-SOVIET TRADE?

A. I HAVE NOT TALKED TO THE SECRETARY SINCE HIS BREAKFAST WITH SENATOR RIBICOFF, SO I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE CONVERSATION WAS SOLELY ON THE MIDDLE EAST, OR WHETHER SOME OTHER THINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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